

**Amendments to the Claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior listings of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims**

1. (Original) A filling valve comprising a valve housing internally formed with a liquid passage for filling which communicates with a liquid supply piping for filling and having a filling nozzle at its lower end, a liquid valve for opening or closing the liquid passage, liquid valve elevating means for elevating the liquid valve, seal means mounted on the valve housing for sealing the mouth of a vessel supplied, seal elevating means for elevating the seal means and vessel relative to each other, content detecting means for detecting the quantity of liquid which is filled into the vessel, and an exhaust passage formed in the valve housing for exhausting a gas from within the vessel;

wherein the exhaust passage has an opening disposed toward the vessel which is disposed outside of an opening of the filling nozzle and the opening of the filling nozzle is maintained above the elevation of the liquid level which is filled into the vessel during the filling operation.

2. (Original) A filling valve according to Claim 1 in which the liquid passage for filling is formed with a portion of a greater diameter at a location where it communicates with the liquid supply piping for filling, the portion of a greater diameter having a liquid channel area which is greater than the liquid channel area of the liquid supply piping, the liquid passage being also formed with a restriction at a location downstream of the portion of a greater diameter.

3. (Currently Amended) A filling valve according to Claim 1~~or 2~~, further comprising a straightening vane disposed in the liquid passage for filling at a point upstream of the liquid valve for straightening a flow of the liquid to be filled.

4. (Currently Amended) A filling valve according to~~one of Claims 1 to 3~~ Claim 1 in which the filling nozzle has a liquid passage which is tapered in the downward direction.